

As the founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Northwest Energy Caucus, DeFazio has continued to be a visible and effective advocate for the Northwest electric ratepayers. The caucus is a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers from Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho and is chaired by DeFazio, Doc Hastings (WA) and Greg Walden (OR).

DeFazio is widely regarded as one of the Northwest's experts on energy policy. In the early 1990s, he chaired a congressional Task Force on BPA and authored a widely praised report, "BPA at a Crossroads."

He has long been an opponent of energy deregulation. He was one of 60 House members to vote against the passage of the 1992 Energy Policy Act that allowed the deregulation of the wholesale energy market, and gave states the option to deregulate their retail energy markets. In the 107th Congress DeFazio introduced legislation to re-regulate the energy industry.

DeFazio has also been a leader on fighting for lower gasoline prices by seeking to end speculation in the oil markets, working to reduce the OPEC monopoly, and expanding domestic resources.

[To see a list of DeFazio's energy accomplishments click here](#) .

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New York Times

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